employment the approximate percentage of the passed students who found employment under the three agencies is as follows :—

	Government Public Works Department.	Local bodies.	Railways.
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Engineer students.	41	14	2
Upper subordinates.	79	5	½
Lower subordinates.	43	24	2

(5) The Government have no information.

Road Board and its work.

535 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) what work the Road Board has done since it was constituted as per G.O. No. 880, L. & M., dated 19th May 1921, and whether any definite programme and road improvements for trunk roads in the Presidency has been prepared by them ;

(2) whether the Government have arranged for the financing by loans for the construction of major bridges, culverts on trunk roads for 1923–24 over and above usual 16 lakhs grant ; and

(3) the number of local bodies which are not able to meet from their own savings the expendidure on trunk roads as well as the 14 lakhs of grants pending recoupment for the next year, such as trunk road grant and other grants, and which are forced to overdraw on Government treasuries pending adjustment in the next year ?

A.—(1) The Road Board held five meetings since it was constituted. Copies of the proceedings are placed on the Council table. A sub-committee was appointed to draw up a programme for the construction of bridges and causeways on trunk roads and other roads. The question of drawing up a programme of bridge construction on the trunk roads within a radius of 100 miles of the City of Madras is engaging the attention of the sub-committee.

(2) It is under consideration to provide for grant of loans in 1923–24 for bridge works where the local bodies have applied for such loans and where the loans are really necessary.

(3) The question is not clear. If the hon. Member wants to know the number of local bodies which are unable to meet their expenditure on trunk roads from their own funds pending recoupment from Government grants in the year following, he is informed that the Government have no definite information on the point. It was, however, brought to the notice of the Government that certain local boards had overdrawn their balances in the Government treasuries last year.

18th December 1922]

The question of making an advance payment of the trunk road and other grants soon after the close of the official year in which the expenditure was incurred pending the final settlement of accounts is engaging the attention of the Government.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to lay the proceedings on the table ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I have no objection, Sir, to place the papers on the table."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" With reference to the answer to question No 535 (2), is the interest on such loans to be borne by the Government, or by the local bodies ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" If they are loans, Sir, the interest on such loans has to be borne by the local bodies concerned."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" But as they are trunk roads and as the cost of maintaining trunk roads has been undertaken by the Government, is it not obligatory on the Government to bear the interest on the loans ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the hon. Member referred to loans. If it is a grant of a loan, it implies that it is lent to the local body and not granted as a gift. The other question does not arise as supplementary to the original question."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" My question has not been answered : Is it not obligatory on the part of the Government to provide for the entire maintenance work whether by grant or by loan ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is a matter of argument."

Reconstitution of the municipal council, Bezwada.

536 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the municipal council, Bezwada, has not been reconstituted, though the election of the municipal councillors was notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* about two months ago ?

A.—The elections were not finally notified by the Chairman until June 27th. Further delay was caused by the settlement of certain legal technicalities connected with the recommendations received in regard to the seats allotted for nomination and in obtaining the consent of the nominated councillors. The consent of one of them was not received till November 11th. The appointments and date of reconstitution were notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of November 14th and the new council came into existence on November 17th.

Draft rules under the Mulgeni Rent Enhancement Act.

537 *Q.*—Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state when the draft rules framed under the Mulgeni Rent Enhancement Act will be published ?